

**TOWN BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday August 18, 2020**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on August 18, 2020 in the Town Hall, 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Shannon Harris  
Councilperson Evelyn Clarke  
Councilperson Jared Geuss  
Councilperson Kathie Quick  
Councilperson Chris Farrell**

**Administrative Recorder: Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk, RMC**

**THIS MEETING WAS **TELEVISED LIVE ON CHANNEL 23 PUBLIC ACCESS** and LIVE-STREAMED ON “TOWN OF ESOPUS” FACEBOOK PAGE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: call (845) 328-0483 to leave a voicemail or email outreach@esopus.com for assistance.**

**SUPERVISOR HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO OPEN THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING AT 7:00 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**PLEDGE**

**UPDATES**

**August Zoom meetings** – Environmental Board on 8/19 at 7 PM; and Waterfront Advisory Board on 8/26 at 7 PM (Note: EDC meetings are suspended until further notice).

**Volunteer vacancies** – Parks and Recreation, Planning Board and ZBA.

**Justice Court** – Courts reopened 8/3/20 under modified health and safety procedures in response to COVID. Contact the Justice Court Clerk’s office at 845-331-5776 for info.

**Traffic Court** – Update on DA prosecution service agreement and schedule in response to COVID-19. Traffic Court defendants will now have the option to call in to negotiate a plea reduction on their ticket(s) prior to their court appearance date. Pre-plea bargaining negotiations will be performed by the DA remotely. Costs should be on par with previous charges. Shannon will monitor cost. Court Clerks will send the notices in mail. This will reduce the number of interpersonal encounters.

**Water storage tank** – Update on amended Professional Services Agreement between the Port Ewen Water District and Brinnier & Larios, P.C. for design and construction of a replacement two-million-gallon water tank.

**Health insurance premiums** – Expected premium increase for 2021.

## AGENDA

**DRINKING WATER IMPROVEMENTS** – Supervisor Harris gave a brief update on the application; paperwork in order. Affidavit of Estoppel Notice has been requested from the Daily Freeman.

**APPOINTMENT** – interim “Acting Assessor”.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO APPOINT PATRICIA SMITH AS THE INTERIM ACTING ASSESSOR PENDING THE APPOINTMENT OF A FULLTIME PERMANENT ASSESSOR. THE APPOINTMENT WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GUESS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **ZONING TASK FORCE**

Councilperson Jared Guess shared the progress and schedule updates for the Zoning Task Force. There are a few developers that are interested in building in Town and the Planning Board has made recommendations for the Zoning Task Force to look into possible zoning changes. There are also changes being made at the County level for short term rentals. Councilman Guess said those regulations will have to be tailored to fit the Town’s needs. Some of the areas the Zoning Task Force will look at will be waterfront recreational use and camps with regulations. The southern end of 9W is a good fit for agritourism. These target areas could help those in the area be able to expand the services they provide. The area is from the winery to the apple bin: Ulster Ave. to Esopus Ave.

Possible draft date in September. There is a need for 2-3 more meetings and Laberge is asking for \$1250 which is for each meeting, findings and revising the hard copy. Option two is \$500 which is for the meeting and recording anything else would be an added-on expenditure. Jared said he thought he could negotiate the fee to \$1,000 per meeting. Supervisor Harris thought they may counter at \$1,100. They have been working on this floating zone which is the area served by water sewer, business/ general commercial in town protects the south end of Town and creates walkable neighborhoods. Density is being promoted in business commercial district. There is incentive zoning where they can talk to the developers to tell them what we would like to see them bring to the Town and better the community. For instance a parcel that may only allow 8 units may be increased to 10 in lieu of improvements for the community such as public areas, playgrounds, solar charging stations in parking lots. Density bonuses can also be given if they reuse existing buildings they can reach a density bonus. This will give flexibility but there are maximum standards that will be allowed and all subject to Board approval.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO AUTHORIZE COUNCILPERSON JARED GUESS TO NEGOTIATE PRICE FOR THE FINAL 3 MEETINGS WITH LABERGE GROUP TO NO GREATER THAN \$3,300. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON EVELYN CLARKE ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**SPEEDING ENFORCEMENT** – The Board had a discussion relating to concerns expressed by residents of speeding in various areas of the Town. Supervisor Harris said she would like to budget for signage to help enforce the speed in the Town.

**2021 TOWN BUDGET** – Scheduling of all-day open budget workshop meeting prior to the September preliminary budget deadline. A tentative meeting date of September 16 was set for the budget meeting pending the availability on Brian Pickard, CPA. Hours for meeting will be 9am-12pm and 1pm-2:30 pm if needed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**STEVEN CERINI** – request to improve audio, can't make out conversations; appreciates everyone's efforts.

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

**Be It Resolved, by** the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster as follows:

**Whereas,** the Town of Esopus has been presented with budget adjustments and the adjustments have been examined and approved by the Town Board.

**Therefore, Be It Resolved,** that the following budget adjustments be approved for payment:

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR AUGUST 2020**

<b>AO 0599.000 Fund Bal</b>	<b>AO 1420.400</b>	<b>\$1,967.24</b>
	<b>ATTORNEY CONTRACTUAL</b>	
	<b>AO 1620.405</b>	<b>\$1,644.59</b>
	<b>BLDG TELEPHONE &amp; FAX</b>	

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS.**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilperson Jared Geuss  
**SECONDED BY:** Councilperson Kathie Quick

<b>Councilperson Evelyn Clarke</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Jared Geuss</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Kathie Quick</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Chris Farrell</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Supervisor Shannon Harris</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AUG 2020**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Esopus has been presented with vouchers for payment and these vouchers have been examined and approved by the Town Board,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following vouchers be approved for payment:

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>201334 - 201381</b>	<b>\$59,254.03</b>
<b>HIGHWAY FUND</b>	<b>202146 - 202164</b>	<b>\$8,426.36</b>
<b>STREET LIGHTS</b>	<b>206006</b>	<b>\$ 5,474.20</b>
<b>PORT EWEN SEWER FUND</b>	<b>203091 - 203101</b>	<b>\$ 66,397.51</b>
<b>PORT EWEN WATER FUND</b>	<b>204153 - 204182</b>	<b>\$ 2,292.63</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 161,844.73</b>

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS.**

**OFFERED BY: Councilperson Kathie Quick**

**SECONDED BY: Councilperson Jared Geuss**

<b>Councilperson Evelyn Clarke</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Jared Geuss</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Kathie Quick</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Chris Farrell</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Supervisor Shannon Harris</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK AT 7:45 PM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERVIEWING A TOWN ASSESSOR APPLICANT, THE HISTORY OF CERTAIN TOWN EMPLOYEES, DISCUSS 2 POTENTIAL APPLICANTS FOR COURT BALIFFS AND TO DISCUSS LEGAL ADVICE ON A MATTER SUBJECT TO ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE AND A LITIGATION MATTER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:45PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

**ACTION:**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO NEGOTIATE WITH A POTENTIAL ASSESSOR CANDIDATE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GUESS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO APPOINT ROGER BOUGHTON AND RYAN NACE AS COURT BAILIFFS AT A RATE OF \$25 PER HOUR AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF HEAD BAILIFF ERNIE OSTERHOUDT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMNERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:46 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

*Respectively Submitted,*

*Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk*